MATH 590: CURRENT MATHEMATICS SEMINAR , FALL 2012

Instructors:	Betul Orcan-Ekmekci	& Eamonn Tweedy
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Time: Th 2:30-3:30 PM **Classroom:** HBH 227
Office Hours: By Appointment
Class Webpage: Look for `MATH 590 F12` on Owlspace

Course Description: Each student will give one lecture on a topic of recent research in mathematics. First-year and second-year graduate students will given 25-minute talks, and all other graduate students will give 50-minute talks.

Prerequisites : Being a graduate student in the Rice Mathematics Department.

Textbook: N/A

Grading: Your grade will be determined by your attendance. Each time you arrive between 2:40pm and 3:00pm, *you will accrue 1/2 of an unexcused absence.* Each time you arrive after 3:00pm or are absent entirely, *you will accrue 1 unexcused absence.* An exception will only be made if your absense/lateness has been approved by one of the instructors ahead of time (in writing) or occurs due to a documented emergency. At the end of the semester, you letter grade will be determined based on the number of unexcused absences you have accrued as specified in the following table:

N, the number of unexcused absences	Letter grade earned
$N \leq 1$	A
$1 < N \leq 2$	B
$2 < N \leq 3$	C
$3 < N \leq 4$	D
$N > 4$	F

Regarding your talk: You should choose an appropriate topic and sufficiently prepare for your talk ahead of time. If you are unsure as to whether your topic is appropriate, feel free to contact one of the instructors in advance for approval. Examples of appropriate talks include:

- A presentation of your own research (e.g. practice for a conference talk)
- A lecture about a recent math research paper you're reading

- A lecture about a topic from a graduate-level math textbook (but please don't recycle a topic from first-year graduate courses - pick something that your fellow students may not know about). If you choose this type of talk, you should have your topic approved by one of the instructors.

Expectations: We expect you to ...

- ... attend every class and to arrive on time.
- ... listen actively (and we encourage you to ask questions).
- ... keep yourself informed of any announcements, syllabus adjustments, or policy changes made during seminar. Not all announcements will be posted on the website.

Disability Support: Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.